

[Where've you been Miss Simmons?]

[?]

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Title Policy, [Begin]: Where've you been Miss Simmons?

Library of Congress

Place of origin Chicago, Illinois Date 4/17/39

Project worker Grace Outlaw

Project editor

Remarks

W3642

Forms to be Filled out for Each Interview

CHICAGO FOLKSTUFF

FORM A

Circumstances of Interview Numbers Line

FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

460 Words

May 18 1939

STATE Illinois

NAME OF WORKER Grace Outlaw

ADDRESS 507 East Oakwood Boulevard

DATE April 17, 1939

Library of Congress

SUBJECT Policy

1. Date and time of interview - April 11, 1939, morning
2. Place of interview - Policy station, 3972 Vincennes Avenue
3. Name and address of informant
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant.
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you - None
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

Backroom of a tailorshop in the basement of the building. A rack holding the policy slips of the various books is on the wall. A cage like that of a bank cashier with two windows is occupied by a man and a young woman who take in the plays and write same. Two chairs are the only other furnishings in the room, with the exception of some boxes piled in a corner.

FORM B

Personal History of Informant

CHICAGO FOLKSTUFF

FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

STATE Illinois

NAME OF WORKER Grace Outlaw

Library of Congress

ADDRESS 507 East Oakwood Boulevard

DATE April 17, 1939

SUBJECT Policy

NAME OF INFORMANT Not given

1. Ancestry - Negro
2. Place and date of birth
3. Family
4. Places lived in, with dates
5. Education, with dates
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates
7. Special skills and interests
8. Community and religious activities
9. Description of informant -

Young woman about twenty-five, tall, dark with even white teeth which she displayed constantly as she 'jived' the folk who came in to play, suggesting various gigs which she thought would be good or advising another to "stay on your gig, because it'll fall soon's you get off it."

10. Other Points gained in interview

Library of Congress

FORM C

Text of Interview (Unedited)

CHICAGO FOLKSTUFF

FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

STATE Illinois

NAME OF WORKER Grace Outlaw

ADDRESS 507 East Oakwood Boulevard

DATE April 17, 1939

SUBJECT Policy

NAME OF INFORMANT Not given (Writer heard her addressed: Miss Blackburn)

Clerk in policy station: "Where've you been Miss Simmons? . . . haven't had any luck . . . or have you been ill?

Policy player: (old woman) "Both . . . chile, my rheumatics has had me down . . . and course all this wet weather aint mean me no good . . . guess I'll play my same gig. . . 16-29-39 . . . but good as any; play it in the North and South, then put it in the one leg book, . . ten cents on the first two and a nickel on the other one.. that's a quarter," and Miss Simmons counted out fifteen pennies and two nickels.

Library of Congress

Clerk: "Hope you're lucky this time . . . be careful about your rheumatism . . . didja ever try rubbing with coal-oil and salt? My mother used to use it . . . see you this afternoon . . . goodbye."

Miss Simmons met an old man as she was leaving.

Old man: "Reckon you musta got your pension check . . . aint seen you round lately."

FORM D

Extra Comment

CHICAGO FOLKSTUFF

FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

(The writer sat in the policy station and overheard the conversation given)

STATE Illinois

NAME OF WORKER Grace Outlaw

ADDRESS 507 East Oakwood Boulevard

DATE April 17, 1939

SUBJECT Policy

NAME OF INFORMANT Not given

Library of Congress

Miss Simmons: "No I aint . . . is you got yours today? . . . I been lookin for it the past wo days."

Old Man: "Here's mine, got it this mornin . . . ever play the numbers on your check? . . . caught me ten dollars last mont. . . didn't I, Miss Blackburn?"

Clerk: "He did that . . . of course those were good numbers . . . anytime you get a gig with seven or eleven in it and you put either a part of your birth date or your mother's to it . . . it's tops . . . seldom fails."

Miss Simmons: "Now that's some'n new . . I aint never heard that . . . show will watch the numbers on my check from now on." And she left the place mumbling something.

FORM C

Text of Interview (Unedited)

CHICAGO FOLKSTUFF

FOLKLORE

CHICAGO

STATE Illinois

NAME OF WORKER Grace Outlaw

ADDRESS 507 East Oakwood Boulevard

DATE April 28, 1939

SUBJECT Policy

Library of Congress

NAME OF INFORMANT

Clerk in policy station: "Hello Daisy . . . what's all the excitement?"

Daisy: "I had a dream about a jitterbug a and I can't find it in the gig book . . . what'll I play? . . . it was a good dream I know."

Clerk: "Guess jitterbug's too new to be in the book . . . let's see," she said thumbing through the gig book. "Here's dancer . . . that plays for 15-17-19 would you want to try that?"

Daisy: "No . . . that wont get it . . . what's close to jitterbug? . . . say, they've got to do something about these new words . . . jitterbug, jitterbug . . ."

Clerk: "Dancer . . . dancing . . . oh look! . . . here's jittery, meaning nervous . . . how bout that?"

Daisy: "Let's see, jittery pluz dancing . . . but how'd you figure out your gig . . . can't have but three numbers.

Clerk: "Lets fix it this way . . . play tencents on 15-17-19 then put fifteen cents on 17-19-29 in the first sixes and a dime to saddle.